



Countdown to Hands-Free: Employer Weekly Emails

Week of July 8

Subject: Hands-Free Minnesota: Did you know?

When Minnesota's hands-free cell phone law takes effect August 1, drivers over 18 will be able to:

- Use your phone while driving, but only in hands-free mode.
- Text, but only in hands-free or voice-activated mode.
- Use your phone as a GPS – but only in hands-free or voice-activated mode only.
- Listen to music and podcasts – but only in hands-free or voice-activated mode.
- Use your phone hand-held or hands-free in an emergency, but **ONLY** to get assistance if there is an immediate threat to life and safety.

The end game? When in traffic (and that includes time at stoplights) cell phone functions can only be used hands-free – no typing, scrolling or holding the device.

For additional information, visit the Minnesota Safety Council's [Hands-Free Resource Page](#) and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's [Hands-Free Page](#).

Week of July 15

Subject: Hands-Free Minnesota: Make your device compatible

Need to adapt your cell phone to be hands-free compatible? Here's what to do:

- Pair your phone with your vehicle's Bluetooth system.
- Use an AUX cable to connect your phone's earphone jack to your vehicle's car AUX jack or use a cassette tape player.
- Purchase a holder that clips to the dash, vent or cupholder.
- Use a single earbud (using both earbuds is illegal).

For additional information, visit the Minnesota Safety Council's [Hands-Free Resource Page](#) and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's [Hands-Free Page](#).

Week of July 22**Subject: Hands-Free Minnesota: Dos and Don'ts**

We're just 10 days away from the August 1 effective date of Minnesota's new hands-free cell phone law.

Here are some DOs and DON'Ts to remember:

- DO use your phone in hands-free, one-touch or voice-activated mode for calls, texts, navigation, music and podcasts.
- DON'T compose or read texts or emails; make video calls, play games, look at videos or anything else that requires to hold your cell phone.
- DON'T type or scroll while driving or part of traffic – that includes when you're at a stop light or sign.
- DO take steps now to make sure you know how to adapt your device and your vehicle to hands-free use.

For additional information, visit the Minnesota Safety Council's [Hands-Free Resource Page](#) and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's [Hands-Free Page](#).

Week of July 29**Subject: Hands-Free Minnesota: Three days to get ready!**

Here's your checklist for the August 1 effective date of Minnesota's new hands-free cell phone law:

- I understand the new law and know how I can and cannot use my phone effective August 1.
- If I have one, I've set up my vehicle's Bluetooth for hands-free calls and navigation.
- I've purchased any accessories I'll need to make my cell phone hands-free while driving.
- I've shared this information with others in my family, especially drivers under 18.

For additional information, visit the Minnesota Safety Council's [Hands-Free Resource Page](#) and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's [Hands-Free Page](#).